

CLAIMS

1. A computer-implemented method of recording an indication of a source location at which a data element is stored, the method comprising acts of:

(A) executing a set of programmed instructions to identify the source location, the source location comprising a portion of a data structure containing source information, the portion containing the data element; and

(B) storing an indication of the source location in electronic file storage.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act (A) further comprises executing a software application to identify the source location, wherein the software application employs a parameter defining a characteristic of the data element.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the parameter is provided in a data structure which is accessed by the software application.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the characteristic comprises text which accompanies the data element within the source location.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the characteristic comprises text which represents the data element.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of programmed instructions identifies the source location by preliminarily identifying the source location, requesting input from a user as to whether the source location is preliminarily identified correctly, and processing the input to identify the source location.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the act of processing the input further comprises updating the characteristic.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the data structure comprises a plurality of characters including a first character, and the source location is identified by a number of characters from the first character.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the first character is at the beginning of the data structure.

5 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the data structure comprises a plurality of lines of information including a first line of information, and the source location is identified by a number of lines from the first line of information.

10 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the first line of information is at the beginning of the data structure.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the data structure comprises a plurality of pixels arranged in a grid containing rows and columns, and the source location is identified by a pixel found at an intersection of a row and a column.

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13. The method of claim 1, further comprising acts of:
(C) receiving a request to retrieve the data element;
(D) in response to the request, identifying the indication of the source location;
(E) employing the indication of the source location to retrieve the data element from
20 within the source information; and
(F) writing the data element to output.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the act (D) further comprises identifying the indication of the source location by retrieving the indication of the source location from the
25 electronic file storage.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the act (C) further comprises receiving the request from a user via a graphical user interface (GUI).

30 16. The method of claim 13, wherein the act (F) further comprises writing the data element to an output data structure which is displayed via a GUI to a user.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the output data structure is provided in a hypertext markup language (HTML) format.

18. A computer-readable medium having instructions encoded thereon, which
5 instructions, when executed by a computer system, perform a method of recording an indication of a source location at which a data element is stored, the method comprising acts of:

(A) executing a set of programmed instructions to identify the source location, the source location comprising a portion of a data structure containing source information, the
10 portion containing the data element; and

(B) storing an indication of the source location in electronic file storage.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the act (A) further comprises executing a software application to identify the source location, wherein the
15 software application employs a parameter defining a characteristic of the data element.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the parameter is provided in a data structure which is accessed by the software application.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the characteristic
20 comprises text which accompanies the data element within the source location.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the characteristic
25 comprises text which represents the data element.

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the set of programmed instructions identifies the source location by preliminarily identifying the source location, requesting input from a user as to whether the source location is preliminarily identified correctly, and processing the input to identify the source location.
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24. The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the act of processing the input further comprises updating the characteristic.

25. The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the data structure comprises a plurality of characters including a first character, and the source location is identified by a number of characters from the first character.

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26. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the first character is at the beginning of the data structure.

27. The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the data structure
10 comprises a plurality of lines of information including a first line of information, and the source location is identified by a number of lines from the first line of information.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the first line of information is at the beginning of the data structure.

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29. The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the data structure comprises a plurality of pixels arranged in a grid containing rows and columns, and the source location is identified by a pixel found at an intersection of a row and a column.

20 30. The computer-readable medium of claim 18, further comprising acts of:
(C) receiving a request to retrieve the data element;
(D) in response to the request, identifying the indication of the source location;
(E) employing the indication of the source location to retrieve the data element from within the source information; and
25 (F) writing the data element to output.

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31. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the act (D) further comprises identifying the indication of the source location by retrieving the indication of the source location from the electronic file storage.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the act (C) further comprises receiving the request from a user via a graphical user interface (GUI).

33. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the act (F) further comprises writing the data element to an output data structure which is displayed via a GUI to a user.

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34. The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the output data structure is provided in a hypertext markup language (HTML) format.

35. A system for recording an indication of a source location at which a data
10 element is stored, comprising:

processing means for executing a set of programmed instructions to identify the source location, the source location comprising a portion of a data structure containing source information, the portion containing the data element; and

storage means for storing an indication of the source location in electronic file storage.

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36. The system of claim 35, wherein the processing means further executes a software application to identify the source location, wherein the software application employs a parameter defining a characteristic of the data element.

20 37. The system of claim 36, wherein the parameter is provided in a data structure which is accessed by the software application.

38. The system of claim 36, wherein the characteristic comprises text which accompanies the data element within the source location.

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39. The system of claim 36, wherein the characteristic comprises text which represents the data element.

30 40. The system of claim 35, wherein the set of programmed instructions identifies the source location by preliminarily identifying the source location, requesting input from a user as to whether the source location is preliminarily identified correctly, and processing the input to identify the source location.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein processing the input updates the characteristic.

42. The system of claim 35, wherein the data structure comprises a plurality of
5 characters including a first character, and the source location is identified by a number of
characters from the first character.

43. The system of claim 42, wherein the first character is at the beginning of the
data structure.

44. The system of claim 35, wherein the data structure comprises a plurality of lines
of information including a first line of information, and the source location is identified by a
number of lines from the first line of information.

45. The system of claim 42, wherein the first line of information is at the beginning
of the data structure.

46. The system of claim 35, wherein the data structure comprises a plurality of
pixels arranged in a grid containing rows and columns, and the source location is identified by
20 a pixel found at an intersection of a row and a column.

47. The system of claim 35, further comprising:
receipt means for receiving a request to retrieve the data element;
identification means for, in response to the request, identifying the indication of the
25 source location;
retrieval means for employing the indication of the source location to retrieve the data
element from within the source information; and
output means for writing the data element to output.

48. The system of claim 47, wherein the identification means further identifies the
indication of the source location by retrieving the indication of the source location from the
electronic file storage.

49. The system of claim 47, wherein the receipt means further receives the request from a user via a graphical user interface (GUI).

5 50. The system of claim 47, wherein the output means further writes the data element to an output data structure which is displayed via a GUI to a user.

51. The system of claim 50, wherein the output data structure is provided in a hypertext markup language (HTML) format.